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SOURCE Wen-hui Pao

CCP SETS UP NAVAL COMMAND;
FORESEES USE AGAINST TAIWAN

NAVAL HEADQUARTERS AT KAN-CHING -- Wen-Lui Pao, 12 May 49

A Naval Headquarters for the East China Military District of the China People's Liberation Army was established in Nan-ching on 1 May 1949. General Headquarters of the Liberation Army appointed Chang Ai-p'ing (Teda: 33035, 3405, 9542) Naval Commander and Political Commissar of the East China Military District. Chang took office on 1 May 1949.

EDITORIAL NOTES NAVY'S IMPORTANCE -- Wen-hui Pao, 13 May 49

In the past the civil war has been restricted to the mainland. Thus, while the forces of the Liberation Army have swelled to great numbers, the Navy and Air Force have not kept pace. In the last 4 months, however, large numbers of KMT warships have joined with the Liberation forces. As a result, the Naval Headquarters of the East China Military District was established on 1 May 1949.

The establishment of a Navy for the People's Liberation Army now has great strategic importance, in view of the fact that the KMT reactionaries, faced with the destruction of their forces on the mainland as the Liberation Army moves southward, are planning to use Taiwan as a base of operations. The KMT relied on its ships to prevent a crossing of the Chang Chiang (Yangtze River), only to find that desertions to the Liberation Army had nullified its plans. Now it relies on the Navy to defend Taiwan, and will again find itself the loser for the same reason. When the forces of the reactionaries on the mainland have been eliminated, the new Navy will have the responsibility of liberating Taiwan.

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